

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01900 01 OF 02 121650Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----126314 121758Z /53  
O 121445Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1900

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1900

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, BB, US  
SUBJECT: BARBADOS' TERMS FOR RENEWING NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 178242, B) STATE 186033, C) STATE 120403

1. ON MY INITIAL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ADAMS ON AUGUST 2, HE WAS TOLD I HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO BEGIN EXPLORATORY TALKS ON RENEWING THE 1961 NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT. ADAMS SAID HE WOULD SO INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE. THE NEXT DAY FORDE CONFIRMED THE GOB'S READINESS TO TALK SUGGESTING WE MAKE A DATE DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8. HE ALSO ORALLY ADVISED ME THE GOB AGREED TO A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT TO PERMIT TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE COMPLETED. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT I SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED BY A SERIES OF CRITICAL ARTICLES, EDITORIALS AND LETTERS IN THE PRESS CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF THE FACILITY. THESE, HE SAID, WERE THE VIEWS OF AN UNREPRESENTATIVE MINORITY. HE ASSURED ME THE GOB WANTED THE AGREEMENT RENEWED BUT THE TERMS WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE FAVORABLE TO BARBADOS.

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 5 I WAS MYSTIFIED TO RECEIVE FROM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS A SIX PAGE "AIDE MEMOIRE." THE TEST OF THIS DBCUMENT FOLLOWS  
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SEPTEL. IT PURPORTS TO SET FORTH THE GOB'S TERMS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT. UNDER ANY LIGHT, THESE TERMS ARE EXCESSIVE.

3. IN THIS DOCUMENT THE GOB SETS CONDITIONS BEGIN UNDERLINE TO THE INITIATION END UNDERLINE OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS:

--THAT TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BE CONVENED AND THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BARBADOS RELATED TO THE NEW AGREEMENT BE RESOLVED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

--THAT COMPENSATION IN THE AMOUNT OF US \$20 MILLION BE PAID TO BARBADOS FOR USE OF THE FACILITY AND THE ISLAND'S "INFRASTRUCTURAL" FACILITIES AS WELL AS FOR THE "FAILURE OF THE US TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE" FROM 1961 - THROUGH 1977.

4. THE AIDE MEMOIRE WOULD NOT GRANT THE US AN ANNUAL UNILATERAL OPTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMPENSATING BARBADOS FOR THE FULL FIVE YEARS RENTAL. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1978, THE GOB ASKS AN ANNUAL RENT OF US \$5 MILLION THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1982. A TOTAL OF US \$25 MILLION FOR THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT.

5. THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ENVISAGED BY BARBADOS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RENEWAL AGREEMENT INCLUDES COASTAL ENGINEERING WORKS, LOW-COST HOUSING, ROADS, SCHOOLS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AIRPORT SECURITY, ASSISTANCE TO THE COAST GUARD AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. THE GOB FURTHERMORE WOULD EXPECT AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF BILATERAL AID, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SOFT LOANS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT.

6. A TENTATIVE CALCULATION OF THE SUM TOTAL OF THE GOB'S TERMS FOR EXTENDING THE BASE AGREEMENT IS NOT DISTANT FROM US \$100 MILLION AT THE LEAST. THE AIDE MEMOIRE CONCLUDES THAT TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE ABOVE THE GOB IS PREPARED TO GRANT AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT FOR A SIX MONTHS PERIOD. THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED, "URGENTLY AND WITH ALL DISPATCH."

7. A FEW HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THIS DOCUMENT I DREW FORDE ASIDE AT A DINNER TO GIVE HIM MY PERSONAL AND INITIAL REACTION TO IT. I SAID IF THE DOCUMENT STANDS AS THE GOB'S TERMS, I BELIEVED THE ONLY POSSIBLE REACTION IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE THAT BARBADOS, IN FACT, DID NOT WANT A RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT. I EXPRESSED MY PUZZLEMENT AT RECEIVING AN AIDE MEMOIRE BEFORE WE HAD EVEN BEGUN TALKS. I WONDERED IF WE SHOULD NOT SET IT ASIDE AS AN INFORMAL AND EARLY INDICATION OF GOB VIEWS UNTIL AFTER THERE HAD BEEN A CHANCE FOR SOME GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSIONS TO SEE WHAT THE

POSSIBILITIES WERE OF ATTAINING THE MUTUALLY DESIRED  
EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT. FORDE SEEMED TAKEN ABACK.  
HE SAID THE AIDE MEMOIRE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME  
AND HE WAS SORRY I HAD TO RECEIVE IT. HE SAID THE  
TERMS SET FORTH IN THE DOCUMENT REPRESENTED THE  
POSITION ADOPTED BY THE CABINET IN LATE MAY AND HAD  
BEEN INTENDED FOR PRESENTATION TO UNDER SECRETARY  
HABIB. HOWEVER, WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY SYMMONDS  
ON LEAVE NO ONE HAD GOTTEN AROUND TO DOING THIS.  
HE THEREFORE THOUGHT THE US SHOULD HAVE THE GOB'S  
POSITION BEFORE WE STARTED TALKS. HE CONTENDED THAT  
THE AIDE MEMOIRE HAS TO BE CONSIDERED A FORMAL GOB  
POSITION BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED AN OFFICIAL ACTION BY  
THE CABINET.  
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8. I HAVE SINCE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH FORDE  
SEVERAL TIMES TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THE GOB INTENDS BY  
PROPOSING TERMS SO FAR OUT OF LINE WITH WHAT THEY  
KNOW OUR POSITION TO BE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAS MADE IT  
CLEAR THAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE SHOULD BE VIEWED BY US  
AS A "NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT" AND THAT WE SHOULD COME  
UP WITH COUNTER PROPOSALS.

9. I HAVE TOLD FORDE THAT, RELUCTANTLY, I WOULD  
TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON THE TEXT OF THE GOB'S PAPER  
BUT HE MUST REALIZE THAT THE GOB POSITION, IF  
MAINTAINED, MADE ANY CHANCE OF OUR AGREEMENT APPEAR TO  
ME TO BE REMOTE.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----127734 121757Z /53  
O 121445Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3361

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1900

EXDIS

10. PERMANENT SECRETARY SYMMONDS WHO IS AWARE OF MY MISGIVINGS TELLS ME HE ADVISED THEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS IN MAY 1977 OF THE GOB POSITION AND WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT IT IN WRITING. (DEPTEL 120403) I HAVE STRESSED TO FORDE, SYMMONDS AND TO THE FEW MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF WHO HAVE SEEN THIS DOCUEMNT THAT ANY PUBLICATION OF ITS TERMS WILL COMPLICATE THE SITUATION ALMOST BEYOND RECALL. (WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, ASSUME THAT IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THERE IS A LEAK.)

11. COMMENT: IN OUR JUDGMENT THIS MISBEGOTTEN PLOY BY THE GOB REPRESENTS A CALCULATED AND HIGHSTAKES ATTEMPT TO USE THE FORTHCOMING TERMINATION OF THE NAVAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AS THE GOB'S MEANS OF ASSURING THAT BARBADOS GETS A SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF THE INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GENERALLY EXPECTED TO FLOW TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN. BARBADOS WITH AN ESTIMATED AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME OF \$1,450 NEVERTHELESS IS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND GREATLY RESENTS THE ABSENCE OF DIRECT BILATERAL U.S. ASSISTANCE. THERE IS ALSO RESENTMENT AT US ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA, GUYANA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND LITTLE INTEREST OR SYMPATHY FOR THE PLIGHT OF LESS FAVORED NEIGHBORING ISLANDS.

12. ACTION REQUIRED: GOB PERSISTENCE IN SETTING SUCH HIGH TERMS LEAVES US NOT TOO MANY OPTIONS. FOR THE PRESENT  
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BEFORE PROCEEDING ANY FURTHER IN IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS I HAVE RECEIVED RE BARBADOS I PREFER TO HAVE INDICATION DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS AND FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS TO TODMAN AND HABIB.  
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## Message Attributes

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